

Water main repaired Boston may get OK to drink tap

By Liz Tsai
STAFF REPORTER

For three days, residents of Boston and surrounding communities have been advised to boil their water following a major water main break Saturday morning. Cambridge residents are not affected because the city receives its water from a different source.

The end may be in sight. As of early Monday morning, the pipe is repaired and the water is being tested for quality. The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority hopes that everything will return to normal "within a day or two" spokesman Ria Convery told *The Tech* yesterday, though "we don't want to set expectations, that would be irresponsible." Last night, Massachusetts Governor Deval L. Patrick told the Associated Press he expects the final results "very soon."

In the meantime, the MIT Emergency Operations Center is delivering three to five five-gallon containers of Poland Spring water to living groups in Boston. MIT plans to continue water deliveries for the duration of the crisis.

Ari P. Miller '11, president of Beta Theta Pi, said that his fraternity recently received the water provided by MIT. Several brothers also went to Shaw's this weekend to buy bottled water as well, Miller said.

Ronaldo M. Webb '10, president of Phi Delta Theta, said that the crisis "hasn't actually been that bad." Phi Delta Theta regularly receives Poland Spring water delivery and got a new delivery "right before the crisis happened." The fraternity keeps a stockpile of water, and has not really been affected by the shortage, he said.

On Saturday, the day of the break, Massachusetts Governor Deval L. Patrick declared a state of emergency and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority issued a boil water order asking residents in affected areas to boil tap water before consuming it. Residents have been asked to restrict water use to essen-

tial purposes only.

Affected areas included 30 communities east of Weston including Boston, Brookline, and Somerville, but not Cambridge. The affected communities were all Massachusetts Water Resources Authority customers who derived their water from the Quabbin Reservoir in central Massachusetts. Since Cambridge draws its water from the Fresh Pond Reservoir, owned and operated by the Cambridge Water Department, the city — including most of MIT — was not affected.

Clean water from the Sudbury Aqueduct and untreated water from an emergency back-up reservoir system, the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, are currently supplying affected communities and is safe for bathing, flushing, and fire prevention but not for human consumption.

"It's like lake water. You'll swim in it, but not drink it," Frederick Laskey, executive director of the MWRA, said to the Associated Press.

The break was reported 10 miles west of Boston in Weston between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Saturday. It occurred in a coupling joining two sections of 10-foot-wide metal piping. At its worst, the breach resulted in water leaking into the Charles River at a rate of 8 million gallons per hour, causing water levels to rise in the Charles and forcing pumps to be activated at a nearby dam.

The contaminated water is estimated to have affected nearly 750,000 households, the *New York Times* reported. Residents have swept bottled water off shelves in grocery stores around Boston. The state of Massachusetts has asked bottled-water companies to supply more water to ease demand and the National Guard has been distributing emergency water as well.

Updates on the situation and the status of the boil water order can be found on the MWRA's website, <http://www.mwra.com/>.

Jessica J. Pourian contributed to the reporting of this article.

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

As memes go mainstream, lols Internet celebrities visit MIT for ROFLcon redux



FENG WU—THE TECH

Panelists Jamie Wilkinson and Kenyatta Cheese (Know Your Meme), Greg Rutter (Youshouldhaveseenthis.com), and Christopher "moot" Poole (4chan) show Ben Huh (I Can Has Cheezburger?) some love during the Mainstreaming the Web panel of ROFLcon after Ben said, with regard to ROFLcon, "I feel like I'm part of something special." ROFLcon, a two day conference on Internet culture, took place last Friday and Saturday on campus.

By Meghan Nelson
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

Last weekend at ROFLcon, I was online without being on the internet. The guest list read like a printout of my browser history.

In front of me sat Ben Huh of I Can Has Cheezburger? next to moot of 4chan. In the audience among hundreds of fans like me, sat Charlie Schmidt of Keyboard Cat, Lauren Leto and Benjamin Bator of Texts from Last Night, and Ryan North of Dinosaur Comics, to name a few of my Internet heroes.

"oh shit, the whole internets here" read an online, real-time comment displayed on a projec-

tion screen in 26-100.

Last Friday and Saturday, ROFLcon 2 descended upon MIT, the biggest gathering of internet celebrities ever. ROFLcon ("Rolling On the Floor Laughing conference") was established in 2008 to bring together creators of memes to discuss and celebrate internet culture. Although held on the MIT campus both years, Harvard undergraduates Tim Hwang and Christina Xu organized both the 2008 and 2010 ROFLcons.

When the official ROFLcon web site describes the 2008 conference as "a kickass time, not to mention the most important gatherings since the fall of the tower of Babel," a second confer-

ence sounds hard to top.

While the Internet has forever skewed my perception of what's "good" (or "right" or "ethical" for that matter), ROFLcon 2 at least quantitatively outdid the first, bringing together even more memes and dispensing more lulz. Approximately 950 attendees registered, up from 500 attendees in 2008. They came from places as far as Israel, Brazil, and Scotland according to Hwang. Of the 78 "featured guests," 66 were the internet celebrities who created the actual memes. The other 12 were academics and researchers who study memes. The re-

ROFLcon Page 10

Don't call it a helicopter



Students watch as a V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft departs Briggs Field during a brief rain squall on Monday, May 3. The Osprey, operated by the Marines of VMM-264, Air Station New River North Carolina, arrived at MIT as part of an event sponsored by the Marines and the MIT Flying Club.

IN SHORT

The Spring Career Fair will be held today in 50-140 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The MIT Glass Lab is having its Mother's Day sale in Lobby 10 today from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This week marks the final week for homework this term. Check course syllabi to make sure there are no infractions and that no tests are assigned after May 7th. Report academic violations to the UA Student Committee on Education Policy at <http://violations.mit.edu>.

Brief summary minutes from the House Dining Advisory Group have been made available at <http://studentlife.mit.edu/house-dining-review/>. The extremely spare notes list the discussion topics

but do not provide any details about the course of the discussions or where the committee is heading. For instance, one of the bullet points from the April 28 meeting notes is: "Discussion of second set of meal plan scenarios." Another is: "Informal poll to determine committee sentiment about the various options."

Technique, the yearbook of MIT is on sale in the Student Center for \$60. Yearbooks will be sold this week and next from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mother's Day is this Sunday, May 9th. Remember to send her a card!

Have any cool photos that you've taken recently? Submit them to *The Tech* and we might run them!

Send news information and tips to news@tech.mit.edu.

WILL THIS OIL SPILL BE THE LAST?

If the past is any guide, no. Oil is a dirty business and no policy band-aids will change that. We have to move on. **OPN, p. 5**

WHO'S AFRAID OF FINANCE REFORM?

At best, the GOP is blocking reform to score points. At worst, it is engaging in pure deception. **OPN, p. 4**



WHAT A WEEKEND!

Photos from Steer Roast, acapella concerts and more. **p. 6-7**



STEAL MY COMIC

The power of suggestion.

FUN, p. 8

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Deadly flooding forces evacuations in Nashville

By William Harless
and Joseph Berger

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NASHVILLE — Parts of downtown Nashville were evacuated Monday as the rising Cumberland River, swollen by two days of drenching thunderstorms, flowed into streets near the country music joints and honky-tonk bars that have made the city a tourist attraction.

At least 19 people in Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi have been killed as a result of some of the heaviest rains in residents' memories — 13 inches fell in Nashville, a record for a two-day period.

Officials in Tennessee were bracing for more as the Cumberland continued to rise, reaching 50 feet, a level not seen since the 1960s, before a system of flood-control dams was built. Thirteen deaths have been recorded in Tennessee, including six in Nashville.

Nashville authorities were particularly concerned about a leaking levee that allowed floodwater to spill onto some streets in north Nashville. Flooding also closed First

Avenue near the riverfront, and officials feared that it could reach a commuter railroad depot and LP Field, home of the NFL Tennessee Titans. Some restaurants and bars near the river were closed.

About 1,500 guests at the Gaylord Opryland Resort, which sits alongside the Cumberland, were forced to leave the hotel overnight. They were taken by bus to a high school on higher ground. Gaylord Entertainment, which owns the hotel, said on its website that it would probably be closed for several months because of damage from the floodwaters.

One of the city's two sewage treatment plants was submerged. Mayor Karl Dean of Nashville asked residents to cut their water use in half by using it only for drinking and cooking, or risk contamination of the city's drinking water.

Bus service in Nashville was suspended because the system's headquarters were severely flooded. Electric power was cut off to some downtown buildings, including the Symphony Center. All told, about 14,000 customers were

without power in Nashville, a city of 626,000 people. The city is the second-largest in Tennessee and home to Vanderbilt University and other colleges and a major regional center for health care, banking and transportation.

"There's a lot to be done, but we'll get it done," Dean said Monday afternoon at a news conference.

Chief Ronal W. Serpas of the Nashville Police Department said that of the city's six storm-related deaths, two victims were found in their homes, two were in cars and two were outdoors.

Heavy storms deluged the Atlanta area as well, dumping 4 to nearly 6 inches of rain in about six hours early Monday, delaying flights at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport and causing flash floods in several creeks.

Firefighters reported rescuing a woman clinging to a wooden dresser floating in her guest house in the Buckhead section of Atlanta, where Nancy Creek flooded. In DeKalb County, part of the metro area, 45 residents were evacuated from a flooded apartment complex.

N.Y. governor's policy may help immigrants facing deportation

By Danny Hakim
and Nina Bernstein

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ALBANY — Gov. David A. Paterson announced on Monday that the state would accelerate consideration and granting of pardons to legal immigrants for old or minor criminal convictions, in an effort to prevent them from being deported.

The move sets up a confrontation between the governor and federal immigration officials, who have taken more aggressive action to increase deportations in recent years. Immigration lawyers on both sides called the step extraordinary and said it could ultimately affect thousands of people in New York.

"Some of our immigration laws, particularly with respect to deportation, are embarrassingly and wrongly inflexible," Paterson said in a speech on Monday at an annual gathering of the state's top judges. "In New York we believe in renewal," he added. "In New York, we believe in rehabilitation."

Paterson is establishing a special five-member state panel to review the cases; while few such cases are currently pending, the

administration expects an influx of hundreds of new pardon applications by the end of the year.

The move thrusts the governor into the middle of the country's immigration debate and could give new hope to legal immigrants facing deportation.

Paterson said the new policy was in the works weeks before Arizona enacted a law late last month to give the police there broad authority to question people about their immigration status. It was spurred in part by his pardon in March of Qing Hong Wu, a 29-year-old information technology executive who The New York Times reported had been threatened with deportation because he participated in a series of muggings as a 14-year-old. He had not lived in his native China since he was 5.

"We just feel that some of these charges are very minor in nature and some of these conversations go back beyond a decade for people who've demonstrated that they've lived productive lives in the interim," Paterson said. "We're separating these cases from ones where there are egregious crimes."

The White House referred calls to the Department of Homeland Security, which would not com-

ment directly on the governor's plan.

"DHS continues to focus on smart, effective immigration enforcement that prioritizes criminal aliens who present the greatest risk to the security of our communities," Matt Chandler, a spokesman for the agency, said. "At the same time, we are applying common sense and using discretion on a case-by-case basis to ensure that our enforcement is meeting our priorities."

Paterson does not need legislative approval to undertake the new policy. Federal immigration laws enacted in 1996 greatly expanded the categories of legal immigrants subject to mandatory deportation as "aggravated felons," including people who had pleaded guilty to misdemeanor drug possession.

For years after the laws' passage, immigration authorities had neither the resources nor the political will to track down or detain legal permanent residents with relatively minor convictions. Because of that, many people years ago pleaded guilty to criminal charges in exchange for probation or no jail time, without having been advised by their lawyers that the plea made them subject to deportation.

Mammoth hemoglobin offers more clues to Arctic evolution

For the first time in 43,000 years, a woolly mammoth has breathed again on earth.

Well, not the mammoth itself but its hemoglobin, the stuff in red blood cells that takes on oxygen in the lungs and offloads it in the tissues. By reconstructing the mammoth's hemoglobin, a team led by Kevin L. Campbell of the University of Manitoba in Canada has discovered how the once tropical species adapted to living in arctic temperatures.

"It is a very exciting result and opens a new chapter in paleontology, a subject usually constrained to examining old bones and teeth," said Adrian Lister, an expert on mammoth evolution at the Natural History Museum in London.

Mammoths, despite their association with the frozen north, originated in the tropics when they split apart from elephants some seven million years ago. To adapt to the cold of northern latitudes they developed smaller ears, a thick fur coat and glands in their skin to keep the fur well oiled.

So much is clear from their remains. But other kinds of adaptation, which have not survived, would also have been necessary. Most arctic animals arrange their blood vessels so that the arteries going down a leg can transfer heat to the veins coming up. The blood reaching the toes is thus quite cold and the animal conserves lots of heat while it stands on frozen ground.

—Nicholas Wade, *The New York Times*

Greece takes its bailout, but doubts for region persist

ATHENS — Greece announced Sunday that it had reached agreement on a long-delayed financial rescue package that would require years of painful belt-tightening, but the deal might not be enough to stop the spread of economic contagion to other European countries with mounting debts and troubled economies.

The bailout, which was worked out over weeks of negotiations with the International Monetary Fund and Greece's European partners, calls for as much as 120 billion euros, or \$160 billion, in loans over the next three years intended to avoid a debt default.

In Greece, Prime Minister George Papandreou, the scion of a Socialist dynasty whose father helped erect the sprawling Greek welfare state when he was prime minister in the 1980s, sought to prepare Greeks for what was expected to be the greatest overhaul of the state in a generation.

"I want to tell Greeks very honestly," he said, "that we have a big trial ahead of us."

—Dan Bilefsky and Landon Thomas Jr., *The New York Times*

U.S. farmers cope with Round-up-resistant weeds

Just as the heavy use of antibiotics contributed to the rise of drug-resistant supergerms, American farmers' near-ubiquitous use of the weedkiller Roundup has led to the rapid growth of tenacious new superweeds.

To fight them, farmers throughout the East, Midwest and South are being forced to spray fields with more toxic herbicides, pull weeds by hand and return to more labor-intensive plowing methods.

Farm experts say that such efforts could lead to higher food prices, lower crop yields, rising farm costs, and more pollution of land and water.

"It is the single largest threat to production agriculture that we have ever seen," said Andrew Wargo III, the president of the Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts.

The first resistant species to pose a serious threat to agriculture was spotted in a Delaware soybean field in 2000. Since then, the problem has spread, with 10 resistant species in at least 22 states infesting millions of acres, predominantly soybeans, cotton and corn.

The superweeds could temper American agriculture's enthusiasm for some genetically modified crops. Soybeans, corn and cotton that are engineered to survive spraying with Roundup have become standard in American fields. However, if Roundup does not kill the weeds, farmers have little incentive to spend the extra money for the special seeds.

—William Neuman and Andrew Pollack, *The New York Times*



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This is in response to Holly Moeller's April 27 article in *The Tech*, "Breaking the silence," in which Holly uses Malthusian arguments to predict global woe. Malthus has long been discredited by developmental economists, and I'd like to clear up some myths that Holly perpetuates.

The environmental crisis was caused primarily by overconsumption by the rich and not excessive reproduction by the poor. According to Foreign Policy magazine, Sub-Saharan Africa, with nearly a billion people, accounts for about 2 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions. The United States houses approximately 310 million people but produces a fifth of the world's greenhouse gases. If the whole world was as poor as sub-Saharan Africa, there would be no climate change to speak of. Making people poor is obviously not a viable solution, and neither is emphasizing birth control over the development of green technologies.

Birth control should certainly be made accessible to as many people as possible in the developing world. However, this is no longer a political issue at all. As Bill Gates pointed out in his recent speech on campus, the poor actually want to have fewer babies and are seeking out birth control measures

— the bigger focus is the logistical challenge of getting them access to such solutions.

Declining fertility levels worldwide mean that overpopulation just isn't as serious a problem as it was once made out to be. Between 1960 and 2000, fertility rates fell in 183 of the 187 countries for which Foreign Policy had data, with an average decline of 42 percent. Half the world will reach replacement-level fertility — when a population has only enough children to replace itself and not expand — sometime in the next few years. This has already happened in places like Brazil, Indonesia, China and south India.

Due to the success of family planning measures and rising income and education levels in the developing world, the global population will stabilize at approximately 9 billion around 2050. This isn't a scary figure at all. As Holly herself points out, Malthusians of the 1970s were predicting certain destruction when the global population was half what it is today — and yet as a race we are still very much alive. We already produce enough food to feed 12 billion people, considering that our planet contains more overweight individuals, about 1.6 billion, than undernourished ones, about one billion, according to Foreign Policy magazine.

We won't get very far even by further improving birth control prevalence. Economists estimate that if birth control was available to everyone who needed it today, our population would stabilize at 8.5 billion instead of 9 billion by 2050. Reducing that number further would

require politically unfeasible coercive measures like forced sterilizations. Clearly, having 500 million fewer people is not going to save the world.

The root cause of the environmental crisis is therefore increasing consumption by the people who already exist on this planet, not people who haven't yet been conceived. By routinely upgrading our iPods, laptops and cars, we have created consumer-driven lifestyles that are environmentally unsustainable. Since we can't (and shouldn't) get rid of consumerism altogether, we should aim to make it more sustainable by developing green technologies. Our main focus should therefore continue to be the development of alternative energy, greener batteries and other areas that MIT is known for, in addition to reducing waste and encouraging conservation.

So while the poor are gradually reproducing less, the rich are consuming more. Fast growing developing countries are now catching up to the lifestyle that we have enjoyed for decades. We can't blame them for becoming richer, just as we can no longer blame their overpopulation (due to their declining fertility levels). Movements like the Industrial Revolution and the Green Revolution were pioneered by developed countries. Similarly, moving towards sustainability will benefit the whole world. American politicians often conveniently shift the blame for the environmental crisis to the world's hungry masses, wrongly perceiving that they are reproducing faster. Students at MIT should not be swayed by such beliefs.

Nikhil Sud '11

CORRECTIONS

A headline about Venezuelan conductor Gustavo Dudamel incorrectly stated his age. Dudamel is 29, not 28. He turned 29 in January.

A photo caption on page 11 of the Friday, April 30 issue misidentified the faculty member at the Association of Taiwanese Students event. It was actually Professor Peter Szolovits, of the Departments of EECS and HST, not Professor W. Eric L. Grimson PhD '80.

In defense of Dodd
The Republican attack on the Senate financial reform bill is unfounded

By Keith Yost

STAFF COLUMNIST

Though byzantine on paper, at its heart, the Senate financial reform bill of Chris Dodd's (D-CT) is sweet and simple. We will expand the resolution authority of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation so that it will be able to do more than simply place small-to-mid-sized banks in federal receivership.

Under this bill, if the financial regulator decides a financial institution is insolvent, that bank would effectively be taken over, chopped up, and sold off. By granting the FDIC new capabilities, previously untouchable financial institutions — those that do not currently fall within the FDIC's strictly defined regulatory purview, are large enough such that their resolution would require the FDIC to hold on to and manage their assets for a period longer than they are equipped to handle, or perform systemically important functions

(like transaction clearing) that the FDIC is not equipped to duplicate during the resolution process — would now be allowed to fail.

In addition, this bill would improve regulatory oversight across the financial sec-

Not only does this bill give us the much needed ability to "fail" a bank, but it also makes it much more likely that we will correctly decide when to fail a bank.

tor, creating smarter capital requirements and improving the information that feeds regulator decisions. Not only does this bill give us the much needed ability to "fail" a bank, but it also makes it much more likely

that we will correctly decide when to fail a bank.

There is deep and fertile ground for debate on financial reform. Which classes of depositors should the FDIC extend deposit insurance to? Should financial institutions be allowed to place classes of depositors that we do not wish to insure, such as proprietary traders, under the same roof as those we do wish to insure, such as retail bank customers? How should we implement risk-based capital requirements such that they intelligently reduce the risk of socializing losses, but remain resistant to gaming of the system and avoid creating sources of correlated risk across institutions (as happened when credit rating agencies mis-assessed the risk of subprime mortgages).

How should we strike the balance between failures to detect (not failing an insolvent bank, leading to a bailout) and

Financial reform, Page 5

OPINION POLICY

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Letters, columns, and cartoons must bear the authors' signatures, addresses, and phone numbers. Unsigned letters will

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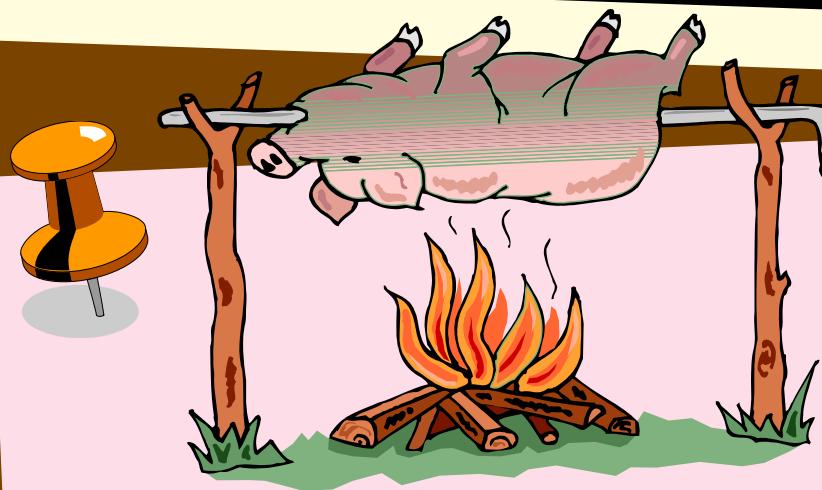
Acapella spring concerts

Richard S. Yau '10 performs his Senior Singout, a dramatic rendition of Mulan's "I'll Make a Man Out of You," with the MIT/Wellesley Toons at the Toons' 20th Anniversary Concert Saturday evening in 10-250.



To complete his last performance with the MIT Chorallaries, Michael R. Blaisse '10 sings his first solo, "Papercut," with the group at their annual Spring Concert on Friday. He is joined by current members and alumni of the Chorallaries.

Steer Roast is meat, music, and mud

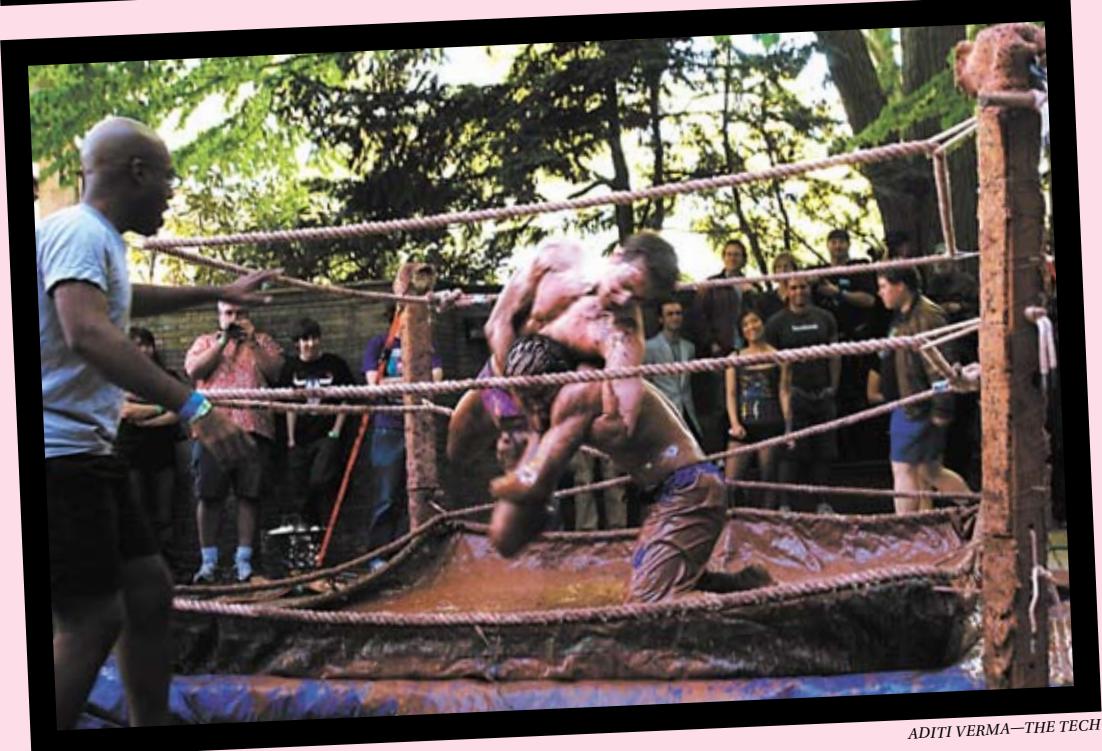


Left: Beef is cooked over the pit at Steer Roast on Friday. The lighting of the pit (by tradition with a flaming ball of toilet paper) marks the beginning of Steer Roast, Senior House's annual weekend long party with several hundred pounds of meat, music, and mud wrestling.



ADITI VERMA—THE TECH

Below: Joseph E. Lemberg '11 and Aaron N. Flores '12 mud wrestle during Steer Roast on Saturday. Steer Roast, an annual weekend long event hosted by Senior House, features meat and performances by a number of bands, in addition to mud wrestling matches.



ADITI VERMA—THE TECH



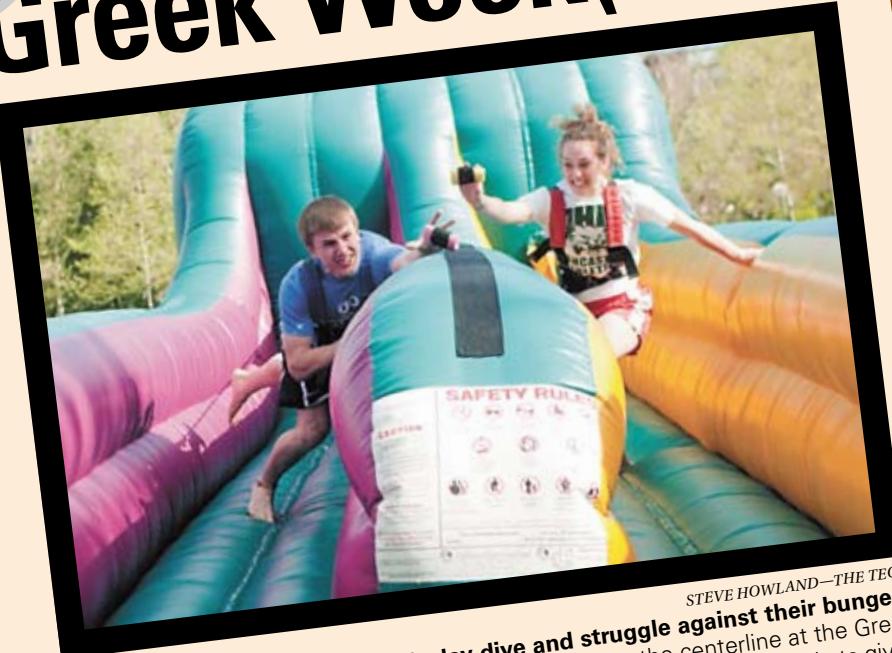
Sam Franklin of "Mamarazzi" plays on Saturday at Steer Roast 2010. Mamarazzi was one of eleven bands that performed at Steer Roast.

ERIC D. SCHMIDL—THE TECH



RONG WU—THE TECH

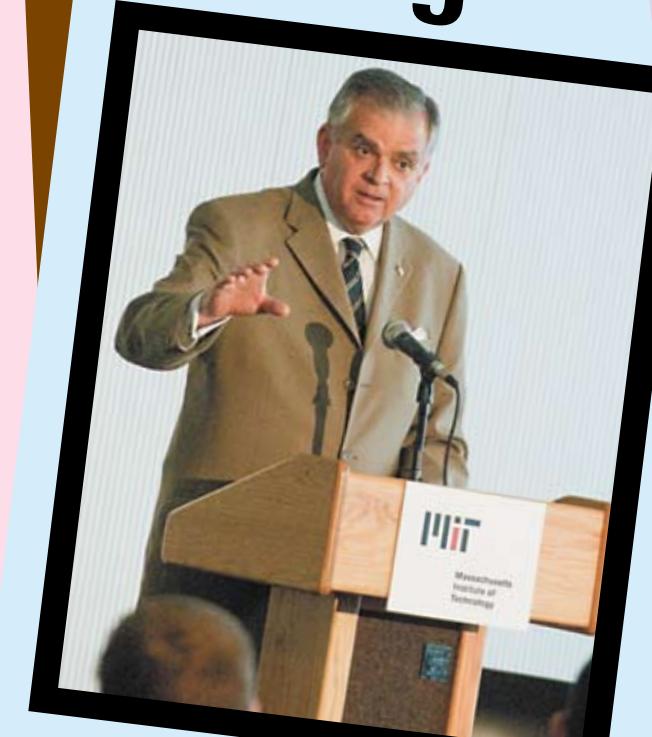
Greek Week(end)



Sean D. Fannin '13 and Jordan Lyday dive and struggle against their bungee-cord harnesses to get their velco marker further along the centerline at the Greek Week(end) 2010 carnival held by Panhel/FC on Kresge lawn on Friday. Tickets given out at the front could be used for food or a number of events, and the Greek Week(end) team which ran each station received credit toward their team's total. Greek weekend teams are made up of a combination of fraternities and sororities. The winning team selects which charity receives all the proceeds from the week-

end.

LaHood on distracted driving



U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood speaks on the dangers of distracted driving in the Media Lab on Monday. LaHood challenged MIT students to develop new technologies and media strategies to combat the increasing number of deaths and injuries attributed to talking on the phone, texting, e-mailing, and other distractions while driving.

ARFA AJAZI—THE TECH

MURAL ORIGAMI



Artist and architect Otto L. Ng G stands in front of **MURAL ORIGAMI**, his winning entry in the 2010 MIT Student Mural Competition, in Stata on Monday. The mural consists of a photograph of a person walking on the sidewalk overlaid on a computer-generated image of a theoretically possible 3D surface. The mural will be on display in the Stata Center for one year.

STEPHANIE C. LIN

Mother's Day glass sale



Students and visitors examine the pieces available at the MIT Glass Lab's annual Mother's Day sale yesterday afternoon. The sale is primarily staffed by students and staff of the Glass Lab, many of whom have pieces available for purchase. The sale will continue until 4 p.m. today.



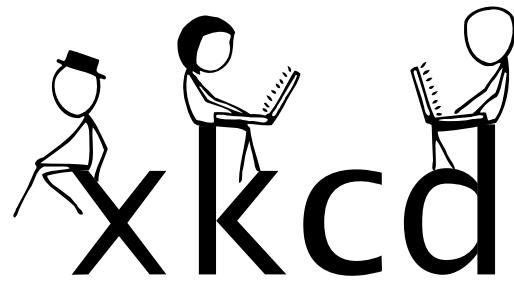
Steal My Comic

by Micael Ciuffo



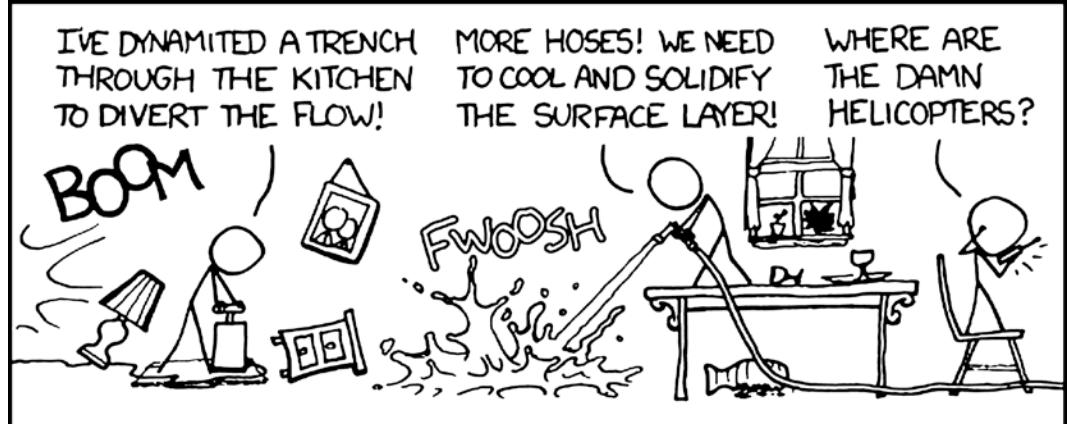
STEALMYCOMIC.COM

Floor



A WEBCOMIC OF ROMANCE, SARCASM, MATH, AND LANGUAGE

by Randall Munroe

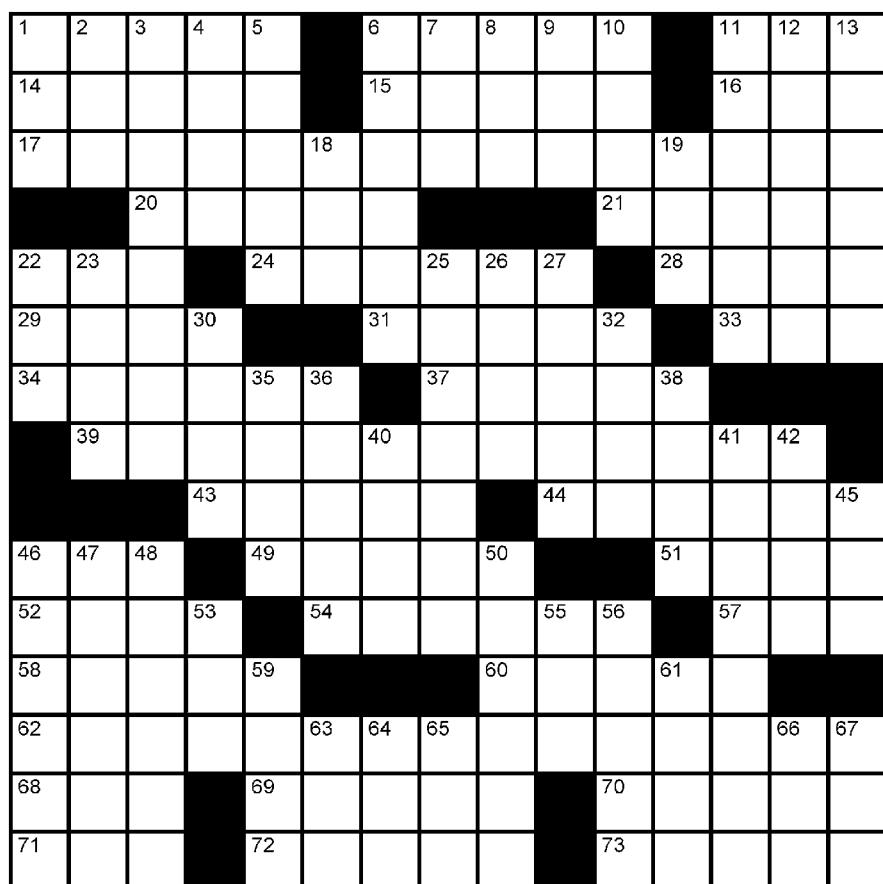


LIKE MANY KIDS, WE SOMETIMES PRETENDED THE FLOOR WAS LAVA.

We once got grounded when we convinced the FAA to block flights through our county because of ash clouds.

Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 11



ACROSS

Across

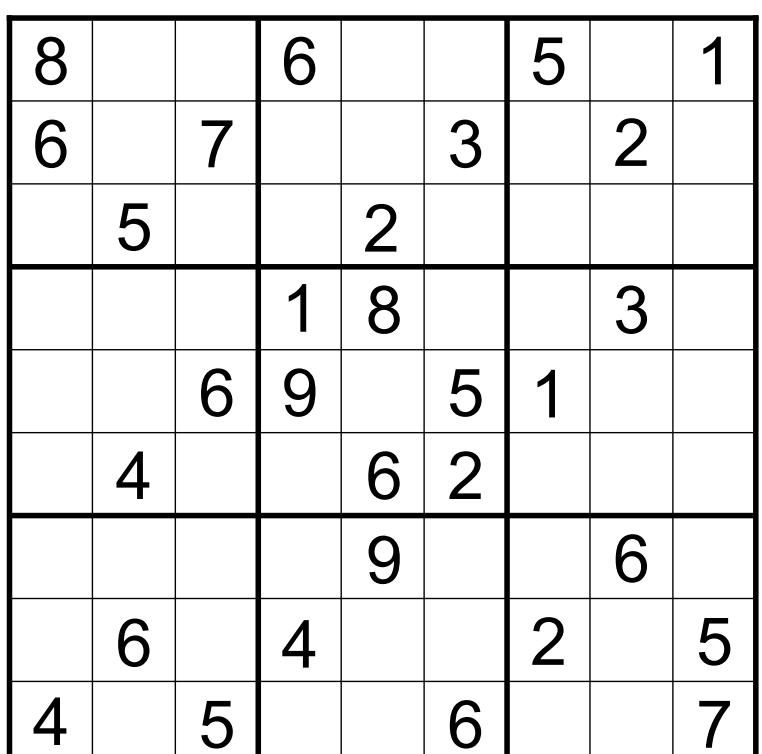
- 1 Check words
- 6 Bowler's button
- 11 Grocery sack
- 14 Cancel, as a launch
- 15 Slip-up
- 16 Tankard fill
- 17 Date
- 20 Cheri of "SNL"
- 21 Shea corners
- 22 German exclamation
- 24 Singer O'Connor
- 28 Violent anger
- 29 Swedish auto
- 31 Writer Gide
- 33 Mal de __
- 34 Military forces
- 37 Udder ends
- 39 Date
- 43 Arab leader: var.
- 44 Ashe's game
- 46 Matter form
- 49 Poker player's declaration
- 51 Mach+ jets
- 52 Agts.
- 54 Steep slope
- 57 CIA forerunner
- 58 Tapestry in "Hamlet"

60 Sphere of wisdom?

62 Date	22 Simile center
68 Summer on the Somme	23 Goldfish relative
69 Lag behind	25 Intestinal
70 French annuity	26 "Zip-__Doo-Dah"
71 The German	27 Working copy
72 Witch trial city	30 Ill humor
73 Sen. Kefauver	32 To be, in Toulon
DOWN	
1 Sajak of "Wheel of Fortune"	35 Mme. Bovary
2 Attorney's org.	36 Engraved slab
3 City on Tokyo Bay	38 Basks
4 Waste allowance	40 Fam. members
5 Nebraska Sioux	41 Audaciously rude
6 Membrane of the inner eye	42 Tiny birds
7 Hesitant sounds	45 Old draft org.
8 Broadway sign	46 Arranged in steps
9 FEMA command facility	47 Expose to oxygen
10 Chicago daily, briefly	48 More agile
11 Aromatic fir	50 Flame-thrower fluid
12 Assert to be true	53 Senator Nunn
13 Yellowstone Park sight	55 Stimpy's pal
18 Tell's canton	56 San Diego pro
	59 Drunkards
	61 Some whiskeys
	63 FDR program
	64 Latvian chess master
	65 Hotfoot it
	66Supped
	67 Legal thing

Sudoku

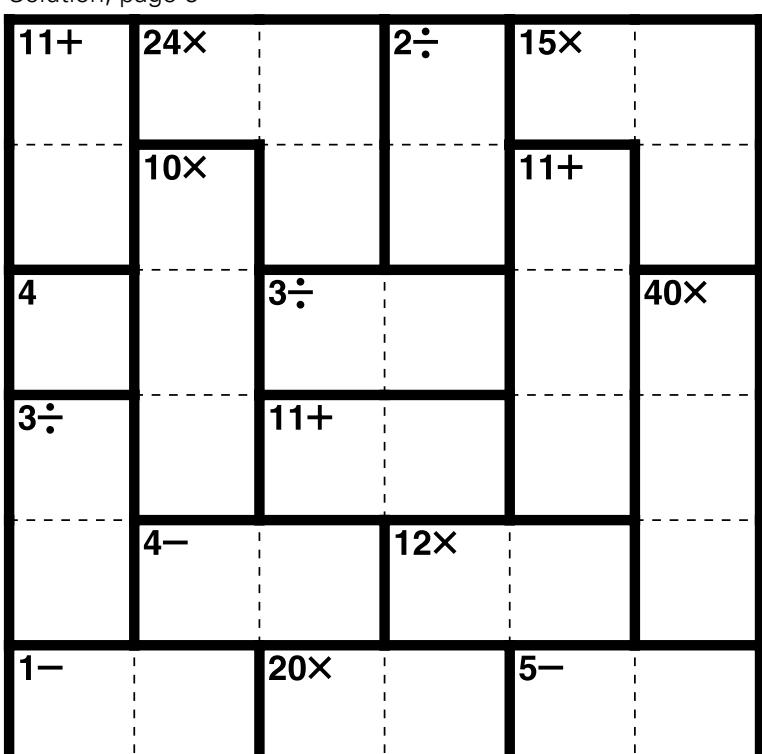
Solution, page 11



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Kenken

Solution page 9



Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column and row contains exactly one of each of the numbers 1 through 6. Follow the mathematical operations for each box.

Some professors say finance reform bill misses point

By Binyamin Appelbaum
and Sewell Chan
THE NEW YORK TIMES

As Democrats close in on their goal of overhauling the nation's financial regulations, several prominent experts say that the legislation does not even address the right problems, leaving the financial system vulnerable to another major crisis.

Some point to specific issues left largely untouched, like the instability of capital markets that provide money for lenders, or the government's role in the housing market, including the future of the housing finance companies Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Others simply argue that it is premature to pass sweeping legislation while so much about the crisis remains unclear and so many investigations are still in progress.

"Until we understand what the causes were, we may be implementing ineffective and even counterproductive reforms," said Andrew W. Lo, a finance professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "I understand the need for action. I understand the need for something to be done. But what I expect from political leaders is for them to demonstrate leadership in telling the public that we need to proceed about this in a much more deliberate and rational and thoughtful way."

Senate Republicans echoed some of these concerns as they delayed debate on the legislation last week. Democrats agree that significant issues remain to be addressed. But they say that the government must press forward in responding to the problems that already are clear.

The bill, which was introduced by Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, would extend oversight to a wider range of financial institutions and activities. It would create a new agency to protect borrowers from abuse by lenders, including mortgage and credit card companies. And it seeks to ensure that troubled companies, however large, can be liquidated at no cost to taxpayers.

A diverse group of critics, however, say the legislation focuses on the precipitators of the recent crisis, like abusive mortgage lending, rather than the mechanisms by which the crisis spread.

Gary B. Gorton, a finance professor at Yale, said the financial system would remain vulnerable to panics

because the legislation would not improve the reliability of the markets where lenders get money, by issuing short-term debt called commercial paper or loans called repurchase agreements or "repos."

The recent crisis began as investors nervous about mounting subprime mortgage losses started demanding higher returns, then withholding money altogether. The government is now moving to prevent abusive mortgage lending, but Gorton said investors could just as easily be spooked by something else.

The flight of investors is the modern version of a bank run, in which depositors line up to withdraw their money. The banking industry was plagued by runs until the government introduced deposit insurance during the Great Depression. Gorton said the industry had now entered a new era of instability.

"It is unfortunate if we end up repeating history," Gorton said. "It's basically tragic that we can't understand the importance of this issue."

Treasury Secretary Timothy F. Geithner agreed in testimony before the House Financial Services Committee in April that "more work remains to be done in this area," but he said that regulators could address the issue without legislation. The government plans to require lenders to hold larger reserves against unexpected losses and to require that they keep money on hand to meet short-term needs.

David A. Skeel Jr., a corporate law professor at the University of Pennsylvania, said it would be a mistake for Congress to leave the drafting of these standards to the discretion of regulators.

"Regulators working right now will be tough," Skeel said. "But we know from history that as soon as this legislative moment passes, the ball is going to shift back into Wall Street's court. As soon as the crisis passes, what inevitably happens is that the people that are paying the most attention are the banks."

A second group of critics say the government helped to seed the crisis through its efforts to increase home ownership, including the role of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in buying mortgage loans to make more money available for lending. The companies are now owned by the government after incurring enormous losses on loans that borrowers could not afford to repay.

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Tuesday, May 4
4:00 PM
Room 10-250

web.mit.edu/awards

You're Invited!
May 4, 2010



Awards Convocation 2010

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Solution to KenKen
from page 8

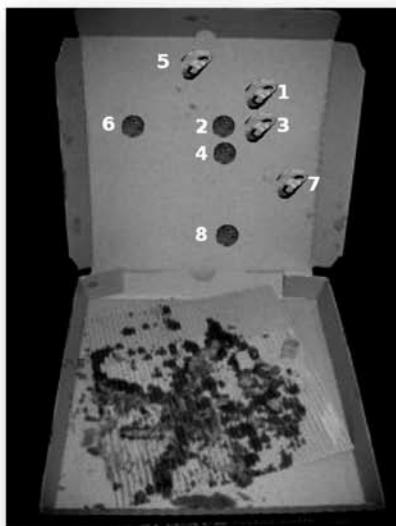
11+	24x	1	2	15x	3
6	4			5	
5	10x	6	4	3	1
4	5	3	1	6	2
3÷	3	1	5	6	2
3	11+				
1	4-	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	1	6

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MIT Go Club Study Break!

Come play team go! (rengo) All skill levels are welcome.

Thursday, May 6th, 2010 in the Student Center,

Room 407, from 8-10 PM.

Contact mitgoclub-staff@mit.edu for more information.



DR. EXCELLENT'S SING-ALONG BLOG

GETTING INTO THE
AWESOME LEAGUE
OF AWESOME

... BY HOOK
OR BY CROOK

THE CROSS PRODUCTS
SPRING CONCERT
MIT CHRISTIAN A CAPPELLA

5:30PM

SAT. MAY 8

10-250

The Internet pays a visit to campus *Meme-fest ROFLcon FTW!*

ROFLcon, from Page 1

searchers highlighted the changes brewing on the 'net: The fragmentation and commercialization of Internet memes — because for better or for worse, Internet subculture is hitting the mainstream.

Legitimizing the internets

While the battle cry of ROFLcon appeared to be "for the lulz," it had a surprising academic presence.

"Usually we don't lol at Chinese lolcats and they don't lol at ours... which is problematic!" said keynote speaker Ethan Zuckerman from Harvard, discussing the unifying and fracturing potential of international memes.

Keynote speeches were given by Zuckerman, member of The Berkman Center for Internet and Society and danah boyd MS '02 from Microsoft Research. (boyd prefers to render her name completely lowercase. She explains on her website that "I am not my name; my name is simply another descriptor of me.") They discussed the problem that memes are an individual cultural phenomenon, and by not learning about memes from other countries we risk creating Internet and international communities that cannot communicate with each other.

China is just one place our cultures are diverging, Zuckerman discussed. For instance, in China which heavily censors YouTube, the primary source of user-generated video is Youku. If you search for

**"We did not know
China had cute cat
technology"**

—Ethan Zuckerman
FELLOW, BERKMAN CENTER

"funny cats" in Youku, it displays thousands of videos, just like its American counterpart. "This is of terrifying geopolitical importance... We did not know China had cute cat technology," Zuckerman said.

The real problem isn't potentially losing the lolcat race, but that the cultures' memes are diverging because they are using different websites: "Someday we may actually end up with Internets that aren't talking to each other and maybe someday Internets that can't talk to one another. We need to meme at each other!" said Zuckerman.

He displayed a map of the world with numbers of memes that came from each country. He was happy to report though that while historically Africa had produced no memes, Kenya had recently created its first. Makmende Amerudi, a pseudo-Chuck Norris, has quickly gone viral in Kenya. Web sites have been established listing Makmende facts, and his portrait has found its way onto parody 10,000 shillings notes.

Our task is to learn about these other cultures' memes, he said, so that we can continue interacting with them constructively. He compared interacting with memes to exchanging literature or news stories. "The easiest way to cross cultural barriers is to laugh," Zuckerman said.

Other panels had a similar academic vibe. On Friday the creators of My Mom is a FOB, Stuff White People Like, and The Onion sat down in an event titled "i can haz dream?: race and the internet." The moderator of the panel discussion, Lisa Nakamura from the University of Illinois-Champaign, stated that race is an important aspect of internet use: "When something claims to be apolitical 'just for the lulz' it has the potential to be racially transformative," she said.

You don't know meme

Not all panels were meant to be so serious; some were just meme-creators sitting down and discussing their craft. Along with moderators leading the discussion, the audience asked questions to the panelists online using their laptops or phones.

Legitimizing the internets

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"funny cats" in Youku, it displays thousands of videos, just like its American counterpart. "This is of terrifying geopolitical importance... We did not know China had cute cat technology," Zuckerman said.

When asked how they actually created their viral memes, most panelists credited luck instead of skill or creativity. "However good you are at it, you'll never create the mystery and wonder that is Keyboard Cat" said Zuckerman. Cue thunderous applause.

"Crisis of Weird"

I spent both days of the conference in a constant state tip-of-the-tongue frustration from seeing people I knew I had seen before, but couldn't remember where. If it weren't for the name tags, most of the actual internet celebrities wouldn't have been recognized. It's not just that they look like us, it's that they are us.

More than once I heard someone say "oh that guy!" after long scrutiny of someone's face.

That's the reality of Internet fame — creators of these memes are just a couple of people like us who happened to get famous. I prefer it this way; at the very least they're not famous for merely being famous like IRL celebrities, they've brought something to the table, be it a lolcat or Naked Obama on a Unicorn.

However, for being at MIT, I was disappointed by the lack of MIT students I saw. Besides volunteers, most attendees didn't appear to have any connection to MIT and I saw more than one student ask around what the entire thing was about. How can we expect to be global leaders in anything if we don't have cheeseburgers? The Internet is a thriving culture as any other, and deserves serious anthropological studying just like anything else.

If the Internet is a series of tubes, there were times this weekend when it felt like I was climbing through its sewers. The event's programs, designed after 90s era floppy-disk casings, came packaged with an official ROFLcondom imprinted with a classy goatse icon.

Toscannini's created a new flavor of ice cream inspired by the conference, titled "The Internet." The flavor, a mixture of vanilla ice cream and Nerds candy, highlighted, for the most part, the demographic of the event: white and nerdy.

As identified by danah boyd and others throughout the conference, Internet culture is undergoing a profound transition, becoming increasingly commercialized and marketed, much to the dismay of those who remember its roots.

SPORTS SHORTS

Track and field finish 2nd at New England DIII Championships

Both the men's and women's track and field teams finished in second place at the NCAA Division III New England Championships last weekend.

The women's team, ranked No. 9 in the country, finished behind Williams College but set four MIT records and 11 NCAA qualifying marks. Portia M. Jones '12 set NCAA qualifying standards in four events, and won two events, the 200m and 4x100 relay. Jacqueline M. Wentz '10 had a pair of NCAA qualifying times in the 800 and the 3000-meter steeplechase, and won both events. Hazel L. Briner '11 set a new MIT record in the heptathlon with 4,262 points, good for second place. The junior had second place finishes in the 100m hurdles, 200m dash, 800m and shot put, in addition to a third in the high jump.

The men's team held the tournament lead throughout the weekend, but was edged by Williams College in on the last event and finished five points short.

Stephen Morton led the Engineers, scoring almost a fifth of MIT's total points. Morton

won the long jump, one of four first-place finishes for the team.

MIT will participate in the NEICAAA Championship next weekend at Northeastern University. The Engineers will compete against the top teams in the region from across Divisions I, II and III, as the meet gets underway on Friday, May 7 at 3:00 p.m.

— Greg McKeever, DAPER staff

Women's lacrosse falls in NEWMAC semifinals

The women's lacrosse team fell to top-seeded Babson College, 16-7, in the NEWMAC Tournament semifinals Saturday.

Erica W. Little '11 led the Engineers with three goals, and Casey M. Flynn '10 provided three assists.

Babson controlled the entire game, jumping out to a 4-0 lead. After an MIT goal, Babson scored four more unanswered points and extended their lead to 9-2 at halftime. They eventually extended their lead to 12-2; MIT made a comeback attempt with a 5-2 run in the second half, but could not overcome the deficit.

The Engineers close out their season with an overall record of 9-7, finishing over .500 for the second straight season.

— David Zhu, Sports editor



JESSICA LIU—THE TECH
The men's lightweight varsity eight finishes just behind the University of Delaware in their race on Saturday. The Engineers finished second by half a second.

UPCOMING HOME EVENT

Wednesday, May 5

Baseball vs. Newbury College

4 p.m., Briggs Field

SCOREBOARD

Baseball

Saturday, May 1

vs. Trinity College L 6-3

vs. Trinity College W 7-2

Sunday, May 2

vs. Worcester St. College W 7-3

Men's Lacrosse

Saturday, May 1

vs. Clark University W 10-7

Women's Lacrosse

Saturday, May 1

at Babson College L 16-7

Men's Track and Field

Saturday, May 1

New England Division III Championship 2nd of 25

Women's Track and Field

Saturday, May 1

New England Division III Championship 2nd of 25

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The Sloan (Course 15) Course Bidding System (Sloanbid) Bidding Dates for Fall, 2010 Courses

<https://sloanbid.mit.edu>

First time logging in? Use your MIT ID as both your log in and password. Follow instructions on the site to change your password or retrieve lost passwords. Once logged in, make sure and check that your information (i.e. program of study and graduation date) is correct.

Institute-wide bidding for Sloan (Course 15) subjects*:

Opens 9:00 a.m., Thursday, May 13

Closes 5:00 p.m., Thursday, May 20

Waitlist Round for closed Sloan (Course 15) subjects:

Opens 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 13

Closes 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 27

Section Swap Round for changing sections of pre-enrolled Sloan (Course 15) subjects:

Opens 9:00 a.m., Friday, July 30

Closes 5:00 p.m., Friday, August 6

Please contact Scott Alessandro, salessan@mit.edu, if you have questions regarding Sloan (Course 15) Course Bidding.

Successful bids will appear on your Registration Form on September 7 and will be posted on the bidding website as of July 13 -- write down your password to check results!

***For 15.011, 15.075, 15.279, 15.301, 15.305, 15.310, 15.501, 15.516, and 15.668, you can sign up directly through WebSIS starting May 3rd. It is not necessary to bid for these courses.**